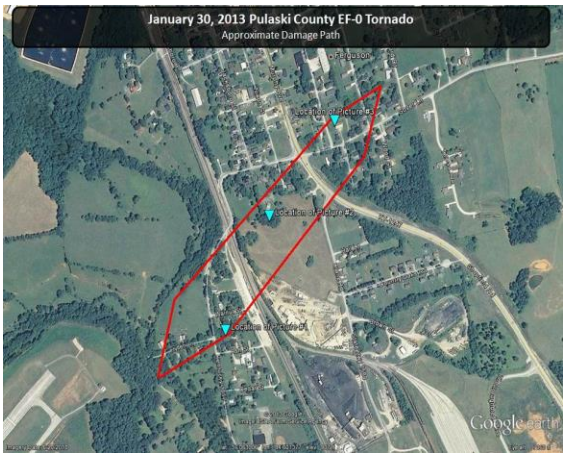
Another year has come and gone and it is once again time to list the Top 5 Weather Events of the year as voted on by the staff of the National Weather Service in Jackson, Ky. Although 2013 was not nearly as eventful as 2012, there were still some events deserving a spot in our Top 5, along with a couple of honorable mentions.

Below are the Top 5 Weather Events of 2013, in order of importance:

Number 1:

Ferguson in Pulaski County Hit by 2 Tornadoes:

The Ferguson community in Pulaski County was hit by two tornadoes in 2013. The first tornado occurred on January 30th and was an EF-0 with estimated peak winds of 65 to 75 mph. This tornado also had the distinction of being the first ever documented tornado to have occurred in the WFO Jackson forecast area during the month of January.



Touchdown occurred in the Ferguson community near the end of the runway of the Lake Cumberland Regional Airport. The tornado traveled a half mile through a residential area crossing Murphy Avenue near the Grover Lane intersection. Some roof and siding damage was noted to structures along the path. Several trees were also downed along the path and one tree fell across and destroyed a shed. No injuries or fatalities were associated with this tornado.

The second tornado to hit the Ferguson community occurred on March 24th and was an EF-1 with estimated peak winds of 100 mph. Touchdown occurred at a warehouse building on Waddle Street. The tornado traveled approximately 700 yards, destroying the warehouse, damaging the roofs of several homes and downing multiple trees along its path.

The warehouse building destroyed in this tornado received roof damage from the January 30th tornado as the two tornado tracks overlapped for a short distance. No injuries or fatalities were associated with this tornado.

Warehouse building destroyed by tornado.

For more information on these subjects:

January 30th tornado:
http://www.crh.noaa.gov/news/display_cmsstory.php?wfo=jkl&storyid=92218&source=2
March 24th tornado:
http://www.crh.noaa.gov/news/display_cmsstory.php?wfo=jkl&storyid=93578&source=2

Number 2:

April 11th Severe Thunderstorm Produces Wind Gusts in Excess of 85 mph:

A potent cold front, ample low level moisture, and abundant instability combined to bring severe weather to portions of eastern Kentucky during the evening hours of April 11th. The bulk of the severe weather occurred in Bath and Montgomery Counties, with isolated, severe events also occurring in Rockcastle, Laurel, Rowan, and Whitley Counties. Significant wind damage occurred in Montgomery County between Camargo and Jeffersonville.

A storm damage survey team from the National Weather Service office in Jackson, KY confirmed that the damage which occurred on Ficlin Road between Camargo and Jeffersonville between 6:58 and 7:05 pm EDT on Thursday, April 11th, was caused by straight line winds. Winds were estimated to have peaked between 85 and 95 mph. The straight line winds spread debris out across an area approximately 660 yards in length and about 720 yards wide. Several homes and barns sustained significant wind damage, and multiple trees were downed. Two barns, a small single structure and a few trees also sustained damage from the winds on Camargo Levee Road at around 6:58 pm EDT. The debris field left on Camargo Levee Road was approximately 400 yards long and 100 yards wide.

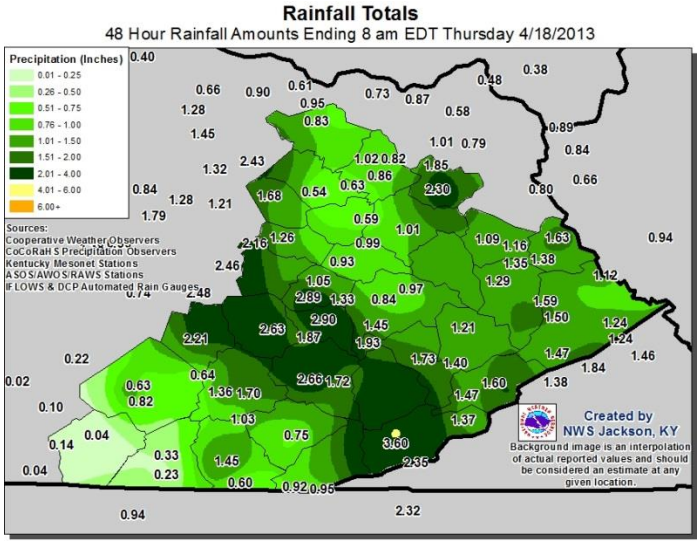
These images show the approximate extent of the debris fields from the high winds that struck the area between 6:55 and 7:05 PM EDT Thursday evening.

For more information on this subject:
http://www.crh.noaa.gov/news/display_cmsstory.php?wfo=jkl&storyid=93961&source=2

Number 3:

April 17th Flash Flood Event:

Clusters of thunderstorms formed over central Kentucky and then pushed eastward into east Kentucky during the morning hours of April 17th. The thunderstorms produced isolated wind damage early in the morning in Letcher County, but the bigger impacts were from flash flooding which occurred later in the morning. Flash flooding was reported in Estill, Owsley, Bell and Harlan Counties, but the worst flash flooding occurred in Clay and Knox Counties. Several people had to be rescued from the rising waters in the Brightshade area of Clay County and along Highway 223 near Scalf in Knox County. Several roads, homes, and barns were flooded from Goose Creek in Clay County, and a water rescue took place near the intersection of Highways 1524 and Mill Creek Road. In Knox County, Stinking Creek flooded several mobile homes and vehicles, and a swift water rescue of 3 teens took place on Highway 223. Fortunately, no lives were lost during these incidents.



For more information on this subject:
http://www.crh.noaa.gov/news/display_cmsstory.php?wfo=jkl&storyid=94076&source=2

Number 4:

June 17th Flash Flooding in Perry and Breathitt Counties:

Isolated, slow moving thunderstorms caused creeks and streams to overrun their banks in parts of Perry and Breathitt Counties on June 17th. The Big Creek community of Perry Co. was especially hard hit. Extensive flooding was reported in the Big Creek area along Highway 1096.

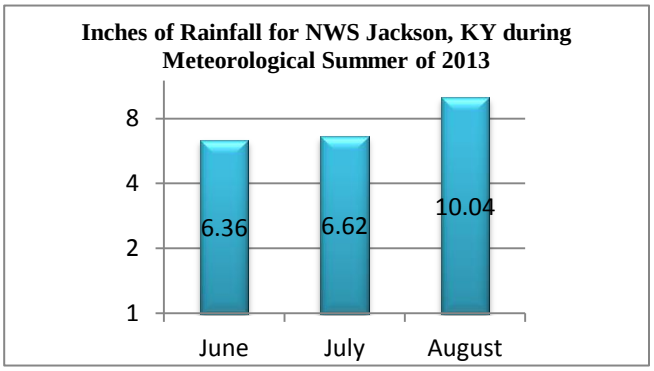
Cars were reported to have been washed away, with water entering houses in one area. One water rescue took place for people trapped in the rising waters. The Big Creek Elementary School was flooded by as much as 3.5 feet of water. The interior of the building received only minor damage. In Breathitt County, a portion of War Creek Road was washed out. The water was knee deep in places and flowing over the bridge.

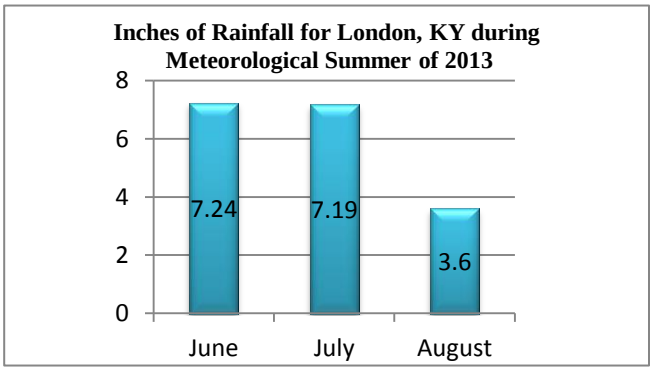
Number 5:

A Very Wet Summer: Wettest Summer on Record at Jackson Kentucky and the 3rd Wettest Summer on Record at London, Kentucky:

The summer of 2013 has been one of the wettest on record across eastern Kentucky. Meteorologists break the seasons down differently from what you see on the calendar. Meteorological summer technically runs from June 1st through August 31st. The National Weather Service office just outside of Jackson finished the meteorological summer with a total of 23.02 inches of rain, which is nearly 10 inches above normal. This makes 2013 the wettest meteorological summer, as well as the wettest season on record since climate records began at the Jackson Weather Service in 1981.

Meanwhile, looking at the record book for the London-Corbin Airport, which has records going back to November 1954, it appears that the 18.03 inches of rain recorded there since June 1st places them in 3rd place for total rainfall during the meteorological summer. The wettest summer on record at London occurred in 2003 when 21.13 inches of rain fell.





For more information on this subject:
http://www.crh.noaa.gov/news/display_cmsstory.php?wfo=jkl&storyid=96906&source=2

Honorable Mentions:

Although these events did not make the Top 5 Weather Events of 2013 list, we felt they deserved an honorable mention:

1. **Severe Thunderstorm Produces Wind Gusts up to 80 mph in Magoffin County on June 9th:**

A storm survey team comprised of officials from the National Weather Service in Jackson, KY and the Magoffin County Emergency Management office found that damage on Highway 1087 and 1437 in the Wheelersburg area of Magoffin County was caused by straight line winds. Widespread tree damage was found in a roughly 2 mile wide path just south of Wheelersburg. Several structures also received damage or were destroyed from the wind and/or toppled trees. It is estimated that wind speeds reached up to 80 mph in the area. Based on visible damage, the damage path was around 2 miles long. However, the damage path likely extended further eastward into wooded areas approaching the Johnson County line.

For more information on this subject:
http://www.crh.noaa.gov/news/display_cmsstory.php?wfo=jkl&storyid=95328&source=2

2. **Unprecedented 17th Winter in a Row without a Major Cold Wave in eastern Kentucky:**

Since the winter of 1995-1996, there has not been any extreme cold weather events in eastern Kentucky with temperatures falling well below zero. This unusually long stretch of winters without extreme cold is unprecedented in the past 100 years.

The coldest temperatures during the 2012-2013 winter occurred during the first couple days of February, when single digit lows were observed across parts of eastern Kentucky. While the lowest temperatures observed were colder than those observed in the winter of 2011-2012, eastern Kentucky once again escaped any extreme cold.

For more information on this subject:
http://www.crh.noaa.gov/news/display_cmsstory.php?wfo=jkl&storyid=92792&source=2